

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 00405 181949Z
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FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS TORONTO 0405

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, CA

SUBJECT: TORONTO SUN KEEPS WARREN STORY ALIVE

1. WITH EXCEPTION TABLOID TORONTO SUN, TORONTO ELECTRONIC
AND PRINT MEDIA APPEAR TO HAVE WRITTEN END TO STORY ON
CANADIAN AMBASSADOR WARREN'S PLANNED RETURN FROM WASHINGTON,
ACCEPTING
GOC COMMENTS REGARDING ACTUAL RETIREMENT DECEMBER 1976 WITH
CRITICISM OF TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT. TORONTO SUN, HOWEVER,
CONTINUED TO PRESS ISSUE IN FEBRUARY 18 ISSUE IN TWO BYLINED
ARTICLES BASED ON COMMENTS AND QUALITY SOUTHAM NEWS SERVICE
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WHO HAD TIED WARREN DEPARTURE TO
CONFLICTS WITH PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE REGARDING TRUDEAU'S
VISIT TO U.S.

2. PAGE FOUR ARTICLE DATED OTTAWA BY STAFF WRITER RON
COLLISTER HEADLINED "WHO'S LYING ABOUT OUR ENCOY IN U.S.?"
REFERRED TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JAMIESON'S COMMENTS
THAT SOUTHAM'S BEN TIERNEY STORY WAS A "TOTAL FABRICATION."
TIERNEY IS QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD THE SUN THAT "MY SOURCES
ARE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE STORY IS CORRECT. I STAND 100
PERCENT BEHIND WHAT I WROTE." ARTICLE STATED PRIME
IRRITATION VISIT BY TRUDEAU'S SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER
IVAN HEAD TO NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI AND END
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WITH REFERENCE TO OPPOSITION LEADER CLARK'S COMMENTS ON
THE NEED FOR PROMPT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REPLACEMENT BY QUOTING
RUMORS SUGGESTING FORMER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MITCHELL
SHARP, OR EX-CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY HEAD
PAUL GERIN-LAJOIE AS POSSIBLES.

3. COLUMNIST DOUGLAS FISHER'S COLUMN "WHO IS THE LIAR?" STATED

THAT BEN TIERNEY IS A SOLID REPORTER AND GAVE THE OPINION
THAT MINISTER JAMIESON "IS EITHER KNOWINGLY OR THROUGH
DISHONEST ADVICE FROM HIS OFFICIALS NOT GELLING THE TRUTH."
FISHER CONTINUED THAT THE MISHANDLING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT "IS
MERELY ANOTHER IN ALMOST WEEKLY OCCURENCES OF BAD MANAGEMENT
OR TACTLESS ADMINISTRATION BY THE TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT." HE ALSO
COMMENTED THAT TORY LEADER CLARK DID NOT PUSH MINISTER JAMIESON
HARD OR FAR ENOUGH ON THE ISSUE.
DIGGINS

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